

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 22 of 1881.]

OF

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 28th May 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta ...	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comereolly ...	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong ...	600	19th May 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta ...	700	
6	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto ...	.....	27th ditto.
7	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto ...	.....
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	671	17th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta ...	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan ...	296	
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	350	22nd ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	745	20th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye... ..	200	25th ditto.
14	"Medinī"	Midnapore ...	.....	21st ditto.
15	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	487	20th ditto.
16	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	.....	20th ditto.
17	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta ...	850	16th ditto.
18	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet ...	.....	22nd ditto.
19	"Pratikār"	Berhampore ...	275	
20	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore ...	250	18th and 25th May 1881.
21	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah ...	500	22nd May 1881.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	500	23rd ditto.
23	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs. ...	.....	23rd ditto.
24	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing ...	.....	21st ditto.
25	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta ...	4,000	21st ditto.
26	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet ...	440	16th ditto.
27	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah ...	.....	21st ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
28	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	700	18th to 26th May 1881.
29	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	20th to 28th ditto.
30	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	20th to 28th ditto.
31	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	500	21st to 27th ditto.
32	"Prabhāti"	Ditto ...	.....	21st to 28th ditto.
33	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
34	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto ...	365	14th May 1881.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	500	19th ditto.
36	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	500	19th ditto.
37	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto ...	200	23rd ditto.
38	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto ...	.....	21st ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto ...	250	20th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Akhhār-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto ...	.....	18th ditto.
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
41	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar ...	.....

POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 17th, 1881.

The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 17th May, remarks, in reference to the steady advance of Russia in Central Asia, that the British Government has nothing to fear from it. The more Russia is removed from her base of operations in Europe, the weaker she will become, while there is but little likelihood of her receiving from the Chiefs of Central Asia that sympathy and assistance which England will, in her hour of need, receive from its allies in India. It therefore behoves the British Government, in view of a possible contest with Russia, to secure the friendship of the Afghans by respecting the independence and integrity of their country. A free and friendly Afghanistan is the best safeguard against a Russian invasion. The Indian Empire should be kept within its old and natural frontiers, and Government should seek to secure the good-will of its subjects and of the Native Princes.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 16th, 1881.

2. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Navavibhakar*, of the 16th May, on the differences now prevailing between the ryots of the Bagri pergunnah in the Midnapore district and the managers of Watson and Company's estates. A Judicial officer should be like Cæsar's wife above suspicion, and it becomes a matter for regret if the least stain is brought upon his sacred character. It is therefore necessary that the reputation of Mr. Price, the Magistrate of Midnapore, should be cleared from the imputations cast upon it by the ryots of the Bagri pergunnah in their petition to the Lieutenant-Governor. If, on the other hand, the officer is proved to be wrong, condign punishment should be meted out to him. It behoves Sir Ashley Eden to take the whole case into his careful consideration.

Indigo oppressions in Midnapore.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

3. The same paper refers to the agitation which is being made in England by certain persons against the continuance of the trade in opium carried on by the Government of India. The writer regards these men as idle sentimentalists, and remarks that Government cannot, in the present state of the finances, relinquish its opium revenue. The Secretary of State has, however, hit upon a good idea in this connection, namely that, although not surrendering this source of income, Government should nevertheless make its connection with the opium trade less direct than before. This object would be attained if wealthy capitalists in India could be induced to betake themselves to this trade.

Government trade in opium.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

4. The same paper gives the substance of the Government Resolution on the last report of the Jail Department, and observes that the condition of the jails in Bengal is becoming increasingly dreadful. The prisoners are subjected to extreme cruelty in the matter of diet and discipline. The mortality therefore is very large. That such a state of things should be tolerated under the government of the most enlightened European nation is a matter which is greatly to be regretted and disapproved. The Editor hopes that Dr. Lethbridge will use means to lessen the present high rate of mortality in the jails in Bengal.

The jails in Bengal.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

5. We extract the following passage from an editorial paragraph in the same paper:—One Narendra Nārāyan Kar of Gujurpur in Howrah is the proprietor of an estate in Midnapore which bears the number 950 in the rent-roll of that district. He has annually to pay a revenue of Rs. 48-8 in the Midnapore Collectorate on account of this estate. Formerly,

The Collector of Midnapore, and
Narendra Nārāyan Kar of Howrah.

in depositing this sum, he had to incur an additional cost of Rs. 5 in the shape of perquisites to the amlah and travelling allowances. From the year 1878, therefore, he began to remit the sum by means of a registered letter to the address of the Collector, who also has hitherto sent him a receipt for the amount. This year, however, the money was returned, with an intimation that the Collector is not bound to act as the petitioner's agent and deposit his money. This has put Narendra Náráyan to much trouble and expense. Government is asked to enquire.

6. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of the authorities of the Postal Department to the necessity of establishing a Post Office at

A Post Office at Kumira.

Kumira, a flourishing and populous village, eight miles distant from the Tálá Post Office. The writer complains that the subject has been pressed upon the attention of the authorities for the last three or four years, but without any result, although the inhabitants even undertook to make good any loss which Government might be put to at the beginning.

7. The *Sríhatta Prakásh*, of the 16th May, asks the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet to entertain a qualified native midwife in the local charitable dispensary. The inhabitants are in great need

A midwife to be entertained in the Sylhet Charitable Dispensary.

of the services of such a person.

8. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 17th May, is gratified at finding that Baboo Behari Lal Gupta, c.s., has been appointed to act as District Magistrate and

Native Civilians as Magistrates.

Collector. Mr. A Barua also was once appointed to this high office. The writer asks Government to adopt a more liberal policy in selecting men for the Indian Civil Service. The selections should be made from the middle classes, which contain the majority of the able and educated men of this country, instead of being confined, as now, only to aristocratic families. Government certainly has no reason to distrust the loyalty of educated natives.

9. It is exceedingly to be regretted, remarks the *Murshidabad Patriká*, of the 20th May, that in spite of the repeated pledges contained in the Royal Proclamation, as to an equal treatment of all Her Majesty's

The new Criminal Procedure Code Bill.

subjects in the eye of the law, Government in practice makes an invidious distinction between Natives and Europeans, thus fomenting race-antagonism. The Vernacular Press Act is a standing proof of this fact. In the matter of the appointment of natives to high offices under Government, and in the operation of the new Civil Service Rules, the same spirit is painfully manifest. The measure, however, which is most open to objection in this respect, is the new Criminal Procedure Code Bill, which provides, for the same offence, punishments, light or severe, according as the offender is a European or a Native.

10. The *Medini*, of the 21st May, remarks that the recent showers in Midnapore have been extremely favourable for the sowing of indigo. The ryots are not,

Indigo oppressions in Midnapore.

however, willing to engage in this cultivation. The managers of the indigo factories have therefore, it is said, begun to oppress them in various ways. In this connection nearly a hundred cases have been instituted in the Garbetta sub-division. The District Superintendent and Inspector Satya Bhajan Baboo, both able men, and in whom the inhabitants have great confidence, have gone for the purpose of making investigations. The writer is, however, afraid lest they should be influenced by subordinates, some of whom, it is said, are secretly assisting Watson and Company. It is exceedingly gratifying to learn that the Commissioner, Mr. Beames, is coming to make enquiries respecting the truth or otherwise of the allegations made in

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 16th, 1881.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
May 16th, 1881.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 17th, 1881.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
May 20th, 1881.

MEDINI,
May 21st, 1881.

the petition of the ryots of the Bagri pergunnah to the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Beames is asked to examine the residents of Bahadurpore who petitioned Government against Watson & Co.

SOM PRAKASH,
May 23rd, 1881.

11. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 23rd May, dwells on the desirability of selecting representative men to sit in the different Legislative Councils of the country. The time has now come when this could be done with safety. Those among natives who are now appointed as members generally vote on the side of the Government; and if they shew any independence, they are outvoted by the official majority.

Native representatives in the
Legislative Councils.

SOM PRAKASH.

12. The same paper fully concurs in the views set forth in the petition about to be presented to the Legislature for the repeal of the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code relating to the arrest of parda-nashin native females.

Arrests of parda-nashin native
females.

SOM PRAKASH.

13. The same paper remarks, in reference to the new Criminal Procedure Code Bill framed by Mr. Stokes, that the measure is characterized by a spirit of undue partiality to Europeans. Everywhere an effort is made to provide for the safety of Europeans, but not a single provision is noticed which is calculated to ensure the security of natives of the country. Section 456 is particularly objected to.

The new Criminal Procedure Code
Bill.

EDUCATION.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 16th, 1881.

14. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 16th May, remarks, in reference to the deputation of Christian Missionaries which recently waited upon the Marquis of Hartington, on the subject of education in India, that it was simply impertinent in the members to seek to dictate to the Government of this country what its policy should be in the matter of education. That policy it has always and consistently followed. It is certainly desirable that primary education should spread in the country, but it is not desirable that it should spread at the expense of the high collegiate education of the people of India, which is the only means of ameliorating their condition.

The primary *versus* the high colle-
giate education in India.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

15. Referring to the expulsion of the 78 native students of the Shibpore Engineering College, who had petitioned the Director of Public Instruction against Mr. Fouracres, the same paper makes the following observations:— Only 14 students, namely 12 Christians (Eurasians?) and two natives are now on the rolls of the College, thus making it clear that at least for the next five years the Eurasians will have the monopoly of studying in this institution. In commenting on the incident, the *Englishman* newspaper observes, in reference to the order passed by Government, that Sir Ashley Eden has herein shown considerable magnanimity and fearlessness. Now, the possession of magnanimity is a very rare gift, and we are really glad to hear that Sir Ashley has it. The Editor of the *Englishman* also deserves commendation for his appreciation of merit. In a small incident, such as the expulsion of certain students, he has discovered the presence of a gift which we had so long and so assiduously searched for in vain. The fearlessness shown by Sir Ashley Eden, in awarding punishment to a handful of native students, has been as unprecedented and unheard of as his calmness of temper. Sir Ashley and his eulogist in the *Englishman* have, however, conferred a great boon upon the students of engineering in this country. Government has for a long time past sought to close the engineering service to natives of India. It is for this that the engineering examinations are made as tough as possible, only two or three students being passed at the final examinations. Native students have still sought

The Shibpore Engineering College.

admission in the Engineering College. It was only the other day that by a vaguely worded resolution Sir Ashley Eden blasted their hope of obtaining high posts in the Public Works Department; and now the expulsion of all native students, save two, from the College at Shibpore, can only mean that Government does not like that natives should any longer seek admission into the engineering service. As it is, His Honor has indeed shown considerable magnanimity; but a clear announcement on his part, to the effect that Government does not really desire to teach engineering to the natives of the country, would have shown more independence and fearlessness. For our part, we never expected that an arbitrary ruler as Sir Ashley is would be able to preserve the equanimity of his temper when he found that the disease of memorializing had even spread among the students of colleges.

16. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 17th May, thus delivers itself on the subject of the recent affair at the Shibpore

The Shibpore Engineering College.

College:—What we would ask in this connection is—Are not the students of the college sons of gentlemen? Have they no sense of what is insulting or otherwise? Are teachers entitled to subject boys who are twenty years old, and know what is right or wrong, to the discipline to which they would subject a boy of seven years? Are these the rules of a liberal system of tuition? What is exceedingly to be regretted is not that the Lieutenant-Governor has justified the conduct of Mr. Fouracres, but that he has held that the punishment of Srish Chandra was not adequate. Complaints regarding the maltreatment of native students by Mr. Fouracres have reached us from the day the Engineering College was transferred to Shibpore. Now, Mr. Fouracres may be a learned man, but Sir Ashley Eden ought to have taken this opportunity to enquire whether he is really in the habit of maltreating the native students. But what, again, of the other students—some 80 in number? Did they really deserve to be turned out from the college for merely having made a joint memorial? The result of the appeal made by the boys to the Director of Public Instruction has been such as was not perhaps anticipated even by Mr. Fouracres himself.

17. On the same subject the *Medini*, of the 21st May, remarks as follows:—“We are convinced that there

The Shibpore Engineering College.

are many low Europeans on whom a courteous

treatment is simply thrown away. These are only amenable to blows. We believe we know Mr. Fouracres; he was for some time Superintendent of the local workshop. He only knows how to deal with the lower classes. We have never heard of his having been ever placed in authority over respectable men. Will not the case of the Shibpore College attract the notice of the Viceroy?”

18. Writing on the same subject, the *Sulabha Samāchār*, of the 21st

The Shibpore Engineering College.

May, makes the following observations:—

The Superintendent did not treat the boys with due consideration. Native students become remarkably attached to their teachers if only the latter treat them with kindness. That the students in this instance went so far was due to the fact that they had been grossly insulted. What is most to be deplored is that, instead of showing them a little sympathy, Mr. Croft has by his order made much of a little thing. A slight forbearance at the beginning would have made the present affair impossible. Mr. Croft appears to lack the essential qualification of an educational officer, namely the power of entering into the feelings of students. He is not a fit person to deal with them properly.

19. On the same subject the *Tripurā Vārtāvaṇa*, of the 21st May,

The Shibpore Engineering College.

remarks that it would appear, from Mr. Croft's letter, that his decision was from the first

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 17th, 1881.

MEDINI,
May 21st, 1881.

SULABHA SAMACHAR
May 21st, 1881.

TRIPURA VARTAVANA,
May 21st, 1881.

likely to be favourable to Mr. Fouracres. The students had been for some time past subjected to a rude treatment at the hands of their Superintendent. They had indeed made an earlier petition on this subject, which, however, was subsequently withdrawn. Their action in the present case does not show that they committed any breach of discipline. Mr. Croft's certificate regarding Mr. Fouracres' character is really amusing. But is it really impossible that a man who may at one moment be as meek as Christ himself should be at another as quarrelsome as a dog? It is difficult for an Englishman to enter into the feelings of native students. They are opposed to unsympathetic instruction, and are firmly convinced that Europeans look down upon them, an idea which they can never shake off, and which comes with redoubled force to their minds whenever a European assaults a native. It was not fair in Mr. Croft to show undue bias in favour of one party, which he certainly did when he unhesitatingly accepted Mr. Fouracres' version of his own case. It was never expected that Mr. Croft would make himself a party to such an act.

SUDHAKAR,
May 21st, 1881.

The Shibpore Engineering College.

20. The *Sudhákur*, of the 21st May, makes observations on this subject similar to those noticed in paragraph 15.

PARIDARSHAK,
May 22nd, 1881.

21. The *Paridarshak*, of the 22nd May, thus concludes an article on the same subject:—It is hardly a year since the new institution was opened at

The Shibpore Engineering College. Shibpore by Sir Ashley Eden but it has already melted like smoke into thin air. We earnestly hope that there will not be found any among the students who will show his cowardice by seeking re-admission.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 22nd, 1881.

22. On the same subject, the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 22nd May, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 15.

The Shibpore Engineering College.

SADHARANÍ,
May 22nd, 1881.

23. The following observations are extracted from two articles in the *Sádháraní*, of the 22nd May, headed "Disputes between a teacher and his pupils, and conflicts of political principles in disguise" and "Director's letter—its political character":—The times are indeed strange. You must either see all things from the point of view of a politician, or let all questions alone, large as well as small, without comprehending them. Thus, in the present unfortunate case of the students of the Shibpore Engineering College, the whole matter—from the assault committed by Mr. Fouracres, to the letter of the Director of Public Instruction—would appear to be an exhibition of insanity, unless seen from a political point of view. From the beginning, an invidious distinction had been made between Eurasian and Native pupils of the institution in the matter of house accommodation, and their treatment in other respects. As a result of this, the native students had become discontented. The case of Srish Chandra was but an accidental exciting case. The matter has now assumed apolitical aspect; at least there can be no doubt that it is being discussed by both Native and Anglo-Indian papers in this light. Thus it is that a petty difference between a teacher and his pupil has been magnified into a political question, and there is now what is called "a tempest in a tea-pot." The letter of the Director of Public Instruction is pervaded by a spirit of indignation at the attitude of the students. He has not been evidently able to divest the question of its political character. The writer, in conclusion, asks Sir Ashley Eden to exclude this element from the discussion of the matter, and to do justice to the students.

The Shibpore Engineering College.

24. On the same subject, the *Som Prakash*, of the 23rd May, makes similar observations. The Editor speaks of Mr. Croft's decision as being hasty, and of

SOM PRAKASH,
May 23rd, 1881.

The Shibpore Engineering College.

the action of Mr. Fouracres as one which was the outcome of his ignorance of native feeling and manners, and of his strong dislike of natives.

25. On the same subject, the *Sahachar*, of the 23rd May, contains a long article. The Editor expatiates on the importance of maintaining discipline in schools and colleges, and on the duty of the students to their teacher, but concludes by asking Government to remove Mr. Fouracres from his present post, for which, on account of his bad manners, he is totally unfit. The expelled boys should be re-admitted into the college. The fact is, Mr. Croft is not a good helmsman.

SAHACHAR,
May 23rd, 1881.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 28th May 1881.

